Georgian Bay Hunters and Anglers Inc. 

I GIVE MY PLEDGE AS A CANADIAN TO SAVE AND FAITHFULLY DEFEND FROM WASTE, THE NATURAL, RESOURCES OF MY COUNTRY, ITS SOILS AND MINERALS, ITS AIR, WATERS, FORESTS AND WILDLIFE.

MIDLAND --- ONTARIO

**March 2022**

In the spirit of giving, a donation box will be permanently set up

In the clubhouse for the local food bank, donations are greatly appreciated by many all year long.

**Covid Restrictions:**

With the Covid restrictions being lessened we will no longer be required to ask for proof of vaccinations nor will we be asking for proof of vaccinations. We no longer require check or tracking or screening upon entry.

**GBHA’s current policy is this:**

For indoor events such as the upcoming PAL Courses, Monthly dinner meetings we require

social distancing and masks must be worn unless the activities of the moment such as eating prevent it.

Masks may be removed while sitting at the tables, once getting up for any reason, masks must be worn.

We have no rules or policies other than those set out by the Government and detailed above. Your support and understanding are always appreciated.

**2022 Membership Renewals**

It is now March 2022. Our 2022 new membership drive is now closed. Current members whom have not renewed but still wish to have till March 31st but now face the $40.00 surcharge.

New applicants will be taken in November of 2022, any existing member who did not renew but wished to will have to re-apply in November 2022.

This practice has been in place for a few years now and we will make no exceptions.

Should you require a hard copy renewal form please contact Chair Elyse Birnie. These forms are also available as a link on our website www.gbhuntersandanglers.com , with etransfers available to gbhaclub@gmail.com.

Elyse Birnie will be available for renewals only at the Sportsmen’s Memorial Dinner.

Elyse has announced she will be stepping down from her position of Membership Chair. We thank Elyse for her three years of dedication and very hard work. She has stream lined the process, made up a procedure for any person(s) wishing to volunteer to take this chairman person position on. Elyse will also be available for consulting. Thanks again Elyse it has been greatly appreciated by all.

**PLEASE NOTE; For identification purposes your PAL number or a government issued identification will be mandatory, even for renewals.**

**Those not renewing this year and wish to renew at a later date**

**will be faced with the surcharge fee.**

**Possession and Acquisition License (PAL) program and Hunter Safety Courses**

Larry Ferris will be hosting a PAL and Hunter program on the week end of Saturday March 05 2022 and Sunday March 06 2022. For more information on Covid regulations during this event or other dates, costs of programs and or to register please contact Larry at 705-529-6364 ferris.larry51@gmail.com

**Ice Fishing Opportunity**

This in not an official junior club event but it is an open invitation to anyone that would like to try ice fishing Sunday March 06 2022. I will be going out to Magazine Island on Penetang Bay. It is a short walk out and the fishing can be quite good at times. If you are interested, I will be parked at Discovery Harbor and meeting others at 11am. If you would like more information, please let me know. Also, if you are going to attend, please let me know so I know who to expect. Karl Gostick Junior Club Mentor 705-716-1612

**Outdoor Gun Range**

Myself and fellow members, Ian Palmer, Peter Lumb, Jared Daley, Warren Pawlikowski and Donny Leblanc got together over the weekend and blew snow, spread 500lbs of salt and well over 1000lbs of salt/sand mix. Thanks for the help, guys!!!!

Range is much safer but always wear good boots and watch for ice.

I would like to take a moment to give a great deal of thanks to new member, Donny Leblanc.

We, as a club, were challenged last week, after the melt and re-freeze, with finding the quantity of salt and sand needed for this task. EVERYWHERE was sold out!

Donny, a new member this year, found a local plow driver and arranged for him to drop off 1000+ pounds of salt/sand mix needed to spread all over range.

Also, even though our regular contractor had plowed driveway and sanded on Friday, Donny had asked his plow guy to sand it once more. Driveway in good shape now. Donny also found us several bags of ice Melter needed for up at club house. Donny insisted on paying for all of it, called it his "new member donation". If you are fortunate enough to come across Donny at a dinner meeting, buy him a drink, I know I will. Thank you, Donny, for your help and thank you for your Military Service.

Franz Klingenschmitt Range Chairman

**2022 Executive Nominations**

D/t the Covid-19 pandemic and the restrictions GBHA’s were unable to have our 2021 election process. We are planning to proceed with the 2022 election process pending any upcoming restrictions.

Every thought of being an executive member or even stepping up as a chairman? This is the time to cast your name forward. Members can have their names nominated at the Sportsmen’s Memorial Dinner or they can forward their name contact information and interest of being nominated by email to gbhaclub@yahoo.ca to have their names put on the voting ballot.

GBHA’s club has been fortunate to have a full executive body and chairpersons over this pandemic but many of the members are ready to step down and we are looking for replacements.

Often members feel that they would not win an election as there would be too many voting for the ones staying on and scared, they don’t know enough to have any votes to get voted on the executive. We encourage anyone who has an interested to please take this opportunity to step up and cast your name for the ballot or even volunteer for chairperson positions. We will be looking forward to seeing some new names on the ballot!

The nominations for the 2022-2023 GBHA Executive Board will take place in March 16th 2022 at the Sportsmen’s Memorial Dinner, and then voting will take place on April 20th2022 at our General Membership Dinner Meeting.

The new Executive will take positions in May 18th 2022.

**Indoor Gun Range**

The range will be open only to .22 cal or smaller, hand guns, rifles will both be permitted. These chairmen will be looking for volunteers to assist with these evenings. The indoor range will be opened on Tuesday nights starting from 07:00 pm till 09:00 pm, should the demand arise for a second night it will be discussed and possibly added pending volunteers.

For more information, please contact Mike Weimer at 1-705-529-9353 or m2bweimer@gmail.com or

Mike Crawford at 1-705-529-6705 michael.w.crawford@sympatico.ca

**Constitution and By-Law Change**s

GBHA Executive would like to remind everyone it is time for review for the Constitution changes and any suggestions are now being accepted. Any suggested changes will be presented by the March 16th 2022 at the Sportsmen’s Memorial Dinner and if needed voted upon on April 20th 2022.

Please note any changes to our Bylaws can be brought up and voted upon at any General Membership Dinner Meeting.

**2022 Sportsman’s Memorial Dinner**

GBHA’s club will be hosting the Sportsmen’s Memorial Dinner on Wednesday March 16 2022.

The Primary purpose of this event is to gather to remember our fallen members, honorable mentions and to recognize our members and clubs’ achievements.

It has been extremely difficult to keep track of stay in touch of our membership and our long-time members who were no longer able to be part of the club but are not forgotten. We do apologize in advance if our celebrations oversee the mentioning of fallen members. As mentioned, it is difficult to stay in touch and receive notifications.

Should anyone have any wild game entries to be judged, or any anglers who have an entry to be judged, please forward the information such as length, girth, weight and a picture to Calvin King @ 1-705-734-8043 cktaxidermy@gmail.com.

**Awards:**

**LOYD WILSON AWARD**; For most active new member

**HAROLD KETTLE AWARD**; Most dedicated to conservation

**MERIT AWARD**; Member displaying most dedication and service over the past year

**OUTSTANDING DEDICATION AWARD;** Member showing dedication and service to the club over the years

***Wild game donations will be greatly accepted and appreciated.***

Tickets will be sold at the door for regular price. Doors will open at 5:00 pm and dinner will be served at 6:30 pm. Volunteers will be needed in the kitchen. Cash Sales Only! Guests are always welcome.

**We must still follow the government regulations!** Failure to comply with these government regulations will lead to denial of entry. Failure for our club to follow these restrictions and regulations could result in our club losing our Liquor License and receiving large fines!

Our bar will be open, but drinking can only happen at your table.

Masks will be mandatory to wear everywhere except while sitting at your table.

We will be calling each table up one by one, plates will be served in the kitchen as usual, again you must wear your mask while up from your table. GBHA Executive appreciates each member and guest co-operation and understanding.

**Snow Shoe Day Junior Club Event**

GBHA’s Junior Club will be hosting a Snow Shoe Day! Come on out and enjoy the outdoors on our trail system on snow shoes. We have plenty of snow shoes for everyone. **All are welcomed**. Sunday March 20 2022 from 10:00 am till 03:00 pm.

For more information, please contact Karl Gostick 1-705-716-1612 or forest9101@yahoo.ca

**2022 Junior Club Memberships**

Starting NOW, we will be accepting registrations for the Junior Club.  Anyone who is currently a member of the Junior Club, as well as those interested in joining, are required to complete a registration form with us.

Membership to the Junior Club is free for any youth (4-16 years) that are part of a **GBHA family membership**, but registration is required.  Non-GBHA members are also able to join, with a paid family OFAH membership plus an annual fee of **$25 per child**.

Please contact Karl Gostick at gbhajuniorclub@gmail.com with any questions, or to make sure you are on our email list.

**Turkey Shoot**

GBHA will be hosting the Turkey Shoot on Sunday April 10 2022. Registration will begin at 11:30 am and the Shoot will begin at 1200 noon. We will be using 12- and 20-gauge rounds that are provided for $5.00 per heat, bring your shotguns. Some shot guns will be available for usage. No PAL required gun instructors will be on site; this is open to all ages, kids to adults. Our Junior club will be selling BBQ lunch and refreshments. Yes, volunteers will be needed. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact Alan Wheeler @ 705-828-1095, or email acwheeler66@gmail.com.

***RAIN OR SHINE THIS EVENT WILL HAPPEN!***

***THIS IS AN OPEN EVENT AND ALL AGES ARE WELCOMED.***

**CONSERVATION UPDATES**

**Duck Nesting boxes**

February was a busy month for conservation activities, with members venturing out on two separate dates to complete the annual monitoring an upkeep of duck nesting boxes. A large group of members joined individuals from other local groups on the 5th, at Tiny Marsh, braving the -25 degree start to the day to do their part to celebrate #worldwetlandsday. On the 19th a small group of volunteers joined Larry Ferris, despite the crazy winds, to take care of the boxes at another one of the Matchedash Tiny Marl (MTM) Conservation Association properties outside of Waubaushene.  At both locations we saw signs that wood ducks, hooded mergansers, and various songbirds had nested, and raised successful broods thanks to these boxes.  I want to thank everyone that has helped with this project over the last couple of years, with building, installing, maintaining and monitoring these boxes.

**“Adopt-a-Road” Cleanup**

As we inch closer and closer to spring, it’s time to start looking forward to green grass . . . and the inevitable roadside debris, left behind as the mounds of snow disappear.  With that in mind, we are already planning on our next clean-up of Vindin Street in Midland on Sunday April 24th.  We will meet 10 am, at the Armond Forget Auto Body parking lot located on Vindin street just before Hwy 93. This will take place rain or shine, so be sure to dress appropriately and bring gloves and any other equipment you think might be handy to have. Trash bags will be supplied. If you’re interested in volunteering, please contact Craig Lalonde in advance. Craig can be reached at (705)427-3542 (call or text), or craiglalonde@hotmail.com

**Ladies Intro to Turkey Hunting**

The GBHA has partnered with the Canadian Sportswoman Society (CSS) to bring you the "Ladies Intro to Turkey Hunting" seminar.  This event is geared towards introducing women to the world of turkey hunting.  Whether you are brand new or a seasoned hunter already, this day is sure to be a fun and informative one, with something for everyone (apprentice hunters are welcome).  This event takes place on Saturday April 23rd, 2022, from 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM, right here at our Club.  The cost to join is $60 per person, and includes: lunch, refreshments, use of equipment, ammo, and giveaways. Topics will include Turkey tactics, archery basics, shotgun basics, blind set ups and hunting scenarios.  There will also be some great door prizes and raffles.  Space is limited to 25 guests, and the CSS' events always sell out, so be sure to register early!

You can register online at www.canadiansportswomansociety.ca and follow them on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/CanadianSportswomanSociety and/or Instagram @canadiansportswomansociety

Please contact Lori-Anne Horst at (226) 923-0193 if you have any questions.

**Editor’s Note:**

With our last dinner meeting having a higher percentage of participants, we are hoping that we have a better turn out for the next one. During the last two dinners I have noticed new faces, different ones at each dinner even! The other thing I noticed are the regular faces, always nice to see both!

As I looked at the crowds I thought back to the days of when I first started with the club. I thought of how the club could be improved, how it could be updated and how we could do this in a way not to ruffle the feathers of many of long-term members. Well, it did ruffle a few but we managed to move forward and things have been updated, improved and there is always room for further advancements.

I often think of my time during my career how I noticed the with new faces come new ideas, some far-fetched, some good, some better! But the unfortunate part I really noticed was the attitude/comments from the higher up management and long-term staff where the new guy was told to shut up, close your mouth and open your ears, you might learn something! It never sat well with me, nor does it still to this date.

As I am now a long-term member I do not want to be perceived as a person to shut down a new member with new ideas. At times it is difficult to actually sit and listen as you get pulled in many different directions during events but I encourage any member to make a point to ask to speak with myself or any executive member about any of your concerns, thoughts or ideas. You might just have something we have tried, thought of or would like to entertain and move forward on! Stranger things have and could happen, hell at one point our club was just an all-male club!

As mentioned, we have many new members from the last couple years and many members who have thought they may be interested in volunteering on the executive board or as a chairperson but thought they would not be able to “get in” if nominated!

Trust me, we are always looking for new faces either on our executive board or being a chairperson. Both are at times very time consuming but are also rewarding! And there are openings!

Lastly folks remember one thing, the club is your club, and we all get out of it, what we put into it!

It will be good to see you at our next event, stay safe and stay well!

**Bruce Dunn - Bulletin Editor**